

Media Advisory

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University Economic Development Association announces Award of Excellence winners

TOWSON, MD — The University Economic Development Association (UEDA) conducted Award of Excellence competitions during its recent national summit, held October 11-13 in San Antonio, Texas. The event, which attracted record attendance, focused on best practices in economic development and higher education.

According to Wayne Watkins, outgoing President of UEDA and Associate Vice President for Research at The University of Akron, “event participants again witnessed exceptionally innovative wealth creation and economic development programs, building on the expertise and resources of the specific colleges and universities and their communities. Again this year, we concluded the conference with renewed commitment for, and belief in, the power of higher education to lead the discussion and facilitate economic development in our increasingly knowledge based and global economy.”

Below are this year’s Award of Excellence winners and finalists.

Excellence in Business Assistance

Winner: Iowa State University: “Business Continuity Planning for Manufacturers”

Finalists:

- The Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program at Penn State University: “Energy Economic Development in Central Pennsylvania”
- University of South Florida: “USF CONNECT: Incubating Innovation”

Awards of Excellence in Technology Commercialization

Winner: University of Florida: “The Economic Impact of Technology-Based Startup and Spinoff Companies Connected to the University of Florida”

Finalists:

- Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development: “Keystone Innovation Grant Initiative”
- University of South Florida: “Heating Things Up: Commercialization of the TempTroll PocketBath”

Awards of Excellence in Workforce Development

Winner: SUNY Buffalo: “Efficient Government Through Lean Six Sigma”

Finalists:

- University of South Florida: “Creating a Workforce to Support the High-Tech Industry in the State of Florida”
- Wichita State University: “Composites Kansas WIRED Initiative”

Awards of Excellence in Economic Development Research

Winner: Bowling Green State University: “Locating Aspirational Clusters: A Spatial Method for Locating Ohio’s Wind Energy Cluster”

Finalists:

- North Carolina State University: “The Benchmarking Economic Development Impacts Task Force”
- University of New Orleans: “Housing Supply/Demand Profile in the GO Zone”

Awards of Excellence in Partnership Development

Winner: University of Alaska: “AKSourceLink”

Finalists:

- University of Kentucky: “The UK Alumni Expert Network”
- University of South Florida: “Anchoring Tampa Bay’s Biotech Cluster”

Awards of Excellence in Community Development

Winner: Missouri State University: “IDEA Commons”

Finalists:

- North Carolina State University: “The DuBois Center Conceptual Master Plan: Redevelopment of the Historic DuBois School Campus in Wake Forest, North Carolina”
- The University of Memphis: “Environmental Systems Enhancement Plan for the Mississippi River Corridor in Tennessee”

The University Economic Development Association serves the nation’s institutions of higher education and their economic development affiliates. The organization focuses on universities’ roles in economic development and provides a forum for a diverse membership, with the common goals of enhancing enterprise competitiveness and community wealth.